## ABOUT YOU

**Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.**

1 Think of a garden you know. Describe it to a partner.

2 What can children do in a garden?

3 Why might some people not want to share their garden with others?

4 How are gardens different in winter and summer?

**When a giant goes on holiday, children play in his garden. When he comes back he is very angry. The children are told they are not allowed to play in the garden.**

**1 Read the text. As you read, think about this question.**
What happens to the garden when the children are not allowed to play in it?



## 'The Selfish Giant' from *The Happy Prince and Other Tales* (1888)

### Oscar Wilde

The poor children had now nowhere to play. They tried to play on the road, but the road was very **dusty** and full of hard stones, and they did not like it. They walked round the high wall when their lessons were over, and talked about the beautiful garden inside. 'How happy we were there,' they said to each other. Then the Spring came, and all over the country there were little **blossoms** and little birds. Only in the garden of the **Selfish** Giant it was still winter. The birds did not care to sing in it as there were no children, and the trees forgot to blossom. Once a beautiful flower put its head out from under the grass, but when it saw the **noticeboard** it was so sorry for the children that it slipped back into the ground again, and went off to sleep. The only people who were pleased were the Snow and the **Frost**. 'Spring has forgotten this garden,' they cried, 'so we will live here all the year round.' The Snow covered up the grass with her great white **cloak**, and the Frost painted all the trees silver. Then they invited the North Wind to stay with them, and he came. 'This is a **delightful** spot,' he said, 'we must ask the **Hail** on a visit.' So the Hail came. He ran round and round the garden as fast as he could go. He was dressed in grey, and his breath was like ice.

## GLOSSARY

| | |
|---|---|
| **dusty** | covered with dust (= powder of dirt) |
| **blossoms** | small flowers on a tree or plant |
| **selfish** | caring only about yourself and not other people |
| **noticeboard** | a board on a wall where you put advertisements and announcements |
| **frost** | weather that is cold and in which water gets hard and solid, especially at night |
| **cloak** | a kind of coat |
| **delightful** | very nice, enjoyable |
| **hail** | small, hard pieces of rain that fall from the sky |

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

**2** **Read the text again and answer the questions.**

1 How is the garden different from the world outside the wall?

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2 Why do you think the children 'walked round the high wall' instead of playing somewhere else?

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3 Why doesn't the flower want to stay above ground in the garden?

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4 What do you think will happen to the giant, the garden and the children?

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.....

## VOCABULARY

**3** **The words in *italics* are not in the correct sentences. Put them in the correct sentences.**

1 Because it was very cold she wore a *noticeboard*.

.....

2 In the spring we saw lovely pink *hail* on the trees.

.....

3 Information about the time of the match is on the *cloak*.

.....

4 Winter is the time of year when you usually see *blossoms*.

.....

5 The room was *delightful* because nobody cleaned it.

.....

6 What a nice house – it's really *dusty*.

.....

**4** **Complete the sentences with the words in the box.**

| delightful | dusty | noticeboard | selfish |
|---|---|---|---|

1 It was a ..... party and we had a great time.

2 The old house was very ..... .

3 Please check the ..... for information about dates.

4 He was very ..... and didn't help his friends.

## WRITING

**5** **What do you think was written on the noticeboard?**

Noticeboards and signs give people information. Work in pairs and write signs for 1–5. Then compare your signs with another pair.

**Write a sign …**

1 telling people a shop is closed.

2 telling students when the library is open and when it closes.

3 telling people there is a dog in a house.

4 saying something is not working.

5 giving information about transport.

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## SPEAKING

**6** **Choose one student to be the giant. Make two groups. One group thinks of reasons why the giant should not let the children play in the garden. Another group thinks of reasons why he should. The groups then form two lines opposite one another. As the giant walks between the lines, tell him or her your reasons.**

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